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ARENA Dances Brings The Main Street Project to Morris

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[ARENA Dances Brings *The Main Street Project* to Morris](#)

The Main Street Project is an exploration of growing up in a small town and of how current attitudes, relationships, and habits have changed in an information-driven, technological world.

MORRIS, Minnesota (February 19, 2016)—The 2015–16 University of Minnesota, Morris Performing Arts Series concludes with ARENA Dances on Saturday, March 5. The company will present *The Main Street Project* at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center’s Edson Auditorium and take part in a variety of public events throughout the preceding week.

The Main Street Project is an exploration of growing up in a small town and of how current attitudes, relationships, and habits have changed in an information-driven, technological world. The show includes explosive movement, electro/techno/pop music, folk-inspired songs, and filmed interviews with people from diverse communities and backgrounds. The performance addresses themes of isolation, community, and humanity in contemporary society, asking the question: “Does ‘Main Street’ still exist?”

Throughout the preceding week, dancers will visit main street businesses in Morris and meet with interested citizens to help inform their performances. These events are free and open to the public:

- Dancers will participate in a Soup and Substance discussion — “Main Street: Does it Still Exist?” — on Tuesday, March 1, from 11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in the Student Center’s Oyate Hall. Soup and Substance is an open dialogue in an atmosphere where everyone is a teacher and everyone a learner; anyone interested in discussing the role of main street in small town life is welcome. It is co-sponsored by the Center for Small Towns and the Office of Community Engagement.
- Dancers will attend Jane Addams, the weekly bilingual discussion group that meets each Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Imholte Hall 111. Jane Addams seeks to create understanding among communities in Morris and is free and open to the public.
- There will be a poetry reading on Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. at The Platform (613 Atlantic Avenue, Basement, Morris, MN 56267). This reading will feature found poems read by the Morris improv troupe and collected by the campus community through conversations with area elders over the past 16 years through a project called Voices on the Prairie.

Tickets for the Saturday performance are available for purchase online, by phone and mail, or in person at the Office of Student Activities. Please visit tickets.umn.edu or call 320-589-6077.

The presentation of *The Main Street Project* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

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